Reviews the Report on the working of the Department of Mines and Explosives.

READ—

Correspondence ending with letter No. 601, dated 1st October 1929, from the Chief Inspector of Mines, submitting the Administration Report of the Department of Mines and Explosives for the year 1928-29.

ORDER No. D. 6685-96—GEOL. 55-29-5, DATED 14TH DECEMBER 1929.

Recorded.

2. *Personnel.*—During the absence of Mr. R. Bocquet on long leave, Mr. C. E Suryanarayana Rao acted as Chief Inspector of Mines.

3. *Mining and Prospecting.*—The following statement shows the number of leases and certificates of approval that were current during the year 1928-29 as compared with those of the previous year:—

	1927-28	1928-29
Mining leases	45	44
Prospecting licenses	15	15
Collecting	4	3
Exploring	4	4
Certificates of approval	36	34
Total ..	104	100

The number of mining leases for gold was one less than during the previous year, *viz.*, 21.

4. *Gold Mining Operations.*—As in the previous year, five companies carried on gold mining operations, all of them being in the Kolar Gold Field's area. The total quantity of fine gold and silver produced during the calendar year 1928 was approximately, 375,886 ozs. and 21,082 ozs., respectively, as against 381,723 ozs. and 20,220 ozs. in 1927. The total value of both fine gold and silver amounted to £ 1,606,391 as against £ 1,629,998 in 1927 showing a decrease of £ 23,607 due to reduced production. All the gold produced, with the exception of some small quantities realised from cyanide slags, etc., was sold in India at favourable rates compared with the market quotations in London. The total amount paid in dividends showed a decrease of £ 4,464 being £ 307,453 as against £ 311,917 in the previous year, and worked out to 18·44 per cent on the paid up capital as against 18·70 in 1927. There was a decrease of £ 1,315 in the royalty payable to Government owing to diminished production, the amount paid being £ 87,531 against £ 88,846 in 1927. Calculated in terms of Indian currency, the total demand on account of royalty payable on gold and silver, including the balance due for previous years, amounted to Rs. 14,47,412, out of which a sum of Rs. 10,90,200 was collected leaving a balance of Rs. 3,57,212. From 1882 to the end of 1928, the total quantity of fine gold produced was 15,899,279 ozs. of the aggregate value of £ 68,779,314, the total dividends paid amounted to £ 21,851,718 and the royalty realised was £ 3,626,286.

5. *Position of the Mines.*—During the year under report, there was an increase in the total working costs as in the previous year, the variations being marked under the two heads "Wages" and "Mining". The increase was due both to the adoption of improved methods of supporting underground workings to the great depths the mines have reached. As regards ore reserves, the estimates for all the mines at the end of December 1928 amounted to 1,454,701 tons or a decrease of 7,609 tons as compared with those at the end of 1927.

6. *Other Minerals.*—The following table shows the output, etc., of the minerals other than gold worked during the year:—

Minerals	Quantity extracted	Quantity exported or sold	Royalty payable for the year
	Tons	Tons	Rs. a. p.
1. Manganese ..	29,797	31,164 (includes ore from previous year's stock)	14,306 12 0
2. Chrome ..	17,314	12,355	11,944 9 10
3. Magnesite ..	1,431	1,860	1,760 (dead rent)
4. Kaolin ..	2,563	2,563	2,103 7 0
5. Soapstone ..	114	114	50-0-0 from each licensee or Rs. 150 in all.
6. Iron Ore ..	26,490	31,118	Utilised by the Mysore Iron Works.
7. Limestone ..	999	3,638 (includes previous year's stock)	

7. *Inspections.*—The inspection of the mines on the Kolar Gold Fields was systematic and regular. No serious defects or breach of the Mining Rules were noticed and it is gratifying to learn that the mining authorities readily co-operated with the Officers of the Department in setting right the minor defects pointed out to them. It is necessary to make further efforts to minimise the number of accidents by improving the blasting rules in the light of experience and by enforcing them strictly. Enquiries into all fatal and serious accidents were regularly held. Persons responsible for accidents by violating Mining Rules were prosecuted and convictions were obtained except in two cases in which the accused are still absconding. A large number of mines outside the Kolar Gold Field area were also inspected during the year by the Officers of the Department. No accidents were reported during the year in the mines outside the Kolar Gold Field. The books and accounts of the Nundidroog Gold Mines were inspected by the Comptroller in February 1929 in association with the Chief Inspector of Mines and with the help of the Company's Auditor. Government wish to convey their thanks to the officers and staff of the Company for their co-operation in conducting the examination of the accounts.

During the year, four students from the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, were deputed for practical training in the Mines on the Kolar Gold Field for a period of two months.

8. *Mining Labour.*—During the year 1928, 20,961 persons were employed in the Mining Industry as against 21,822 in 1927 showing a decrease of 861. Of this number, 18,829 were employed in Gold Mining as against 18,918 in 1927; 793 on Manganese against 1,163,757 on Chromium against 873,311 on Iron Ore against 595; 33 on Limestone against the same figure last year; 185 on Magnesite against 187,24 on Kaolin against 40,16 on Soapstone against 13 and 13 on copper. Of the 18,829 persons employed in Gold Mining, 334 were Europeans, 384 Anglo-Indians, and 18,111 Indians. The conditions of work were ameliorated by better ventilation and the introduction of measures calculated to secure the personal safety of the employed. The satisfactory relationship between the employers and the employees on the Kolar Gold Field was disturbed by two short strikes during the year. Happily, however, no untoward events occurred and a compromise was speedily effected in each case.

9. *Accidents.* The total number of accidents reported during the year 1928 was 194 against 221 in the previous year. Of these 37 were fatal, 149 serious, 1 trivial, and 7 non-mining; 84·41 per cent of the fatal and serious accidents were classed as unavoidable and the mortality in the fatal ones was 2·05 per 1,000 persons employed.

10. *Compensation for Injuries.*—The total premia collected by the Companies in 1928 for payment of compensation for injuries received in accidents was Rs. 43,398 as against Rs. 43,704 in the previous year, and the amount paid as compensation was Rs. 130,118 against Rs. 1,50,189 in 1927.

The Workmen's Compensation Regulation came into effect from 1st January 1929, superseding the scheme of compensation instituted in 1915 by the Kolar Gold Field Mining Board. Up to the end of June 1929, a total sum of Rs. 20,715 was deposited in Court under this Regulation and the total amount distributed was Rs. 19,107-8-0,

11. *Prosecutions.*—In connection with the thefts and illegal possession of Mining materials, 95 persons involved in 58 cases were prosecuted, and 89 persons were convicted. Seventeen persons were convicted for breach of rules, causing accidents, etc., as against 31 in 1927.

12. *Explosives.*—During the year 1928, 804 licenses were granted as against 794 in the previous year, resulting in an increase of 10 licenses. The departmental inspection of magazines and premises was satisfactory. Nine reports of inspection of Government Magazines in charge of Civil Officers received in the Chief Inspector's Office were scrutinised and the irregularities or defects requiring remedy were brought to the notice of the Officers concerned. The number of inspections of explosives premises carried out by the Magistracy and the Police was 381 as against 320 in the previous year. There has been some improvement in this respect this year. It is however reported that a large number of licensed premises remains uninspected. Government wish to impress on the officers concerned the importance of these inspections and in future the Chief Inspector of Mines is requested to report the localities in which such inspections are not carried out.

Forty-seven accidents due to explosives involving the death of eleven persons and serious injuries to 53 others were reported in the year under review as against 45, 20 and 51 respectively in the previous year. There were 18 cases of prosecution under the Mysore Explosives Rules.

Government are glad to note that action is being taken for the early removal of the fire-works shops in the Bangalore City to a suitable site.

General.—The work of the Department during the year was satisfactory and Government wish to record their appreciation of the manner in which the Chief Inspector and his staff carried out their arduous duties.

N. RAMA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Development Departments.

LAW SECRETARIAT

Increases the number of seats guaranteed to the Representatives of Depressed Classes in the Representative Assembly from three to six.

READ—

Paragraph 20 of Government Order No. 1367-1426—C. B. 100-23-1, dated 27th October 1923 guaranteeing among other things, three seats in the Representative Assembly for the Depressed Classes'

2. Letter No. C. 142—28-29, dated 12th—20th June 1929, from the Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District, forwarding for favourable consideration an extract of a resolution passed at the 13th District Conference held at Chintamani to the effect that one member may be nominated to the Representative Assembly from the Adikarnatakas of each District.

ORDER thereon NO. REL. 372-83—R. A. 23-29-7, DATED 16TH DECEMBER 1929.

The present constitution of the Assembly does not admit of the representation of any community on a territorial basis. Government, however, consider that the resolution of the Kolar District Conference, so far as it recommends increased representation to the Depressed Classes, is reasonable. They are accordingly pleased to raise the number of seats in the Representative Assembly guaranteed to the Depressed Classes from three to six.

P. MAHADEVAYYA,
Secretary to Government,
Law Department.